REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Claims 1, 15, 25 and 34 have been amended, and claims 43-46 have been added. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-15, 18-25, 28-34, 37-39 and 41-46 are currently pending in the application.

Prior Art Rejections:

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 12-15, 18, 19, 21-25, 28, 29, 33, 34, 37, 38 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,756,913 to Ayed (hereinafter "Ayed") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0177109 to Lee (hereinafter "Lee") and U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/00227620 to Morimoto (hereinafter "Morimoto"). Claims 4, 8, 10, 11, 20, 22, 30-32 and 39-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ayed in view of Lee and Morimoto, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0065556 to Takanashi et al. (hereinafter "Takanashi"). These rejections are traversed for the reasons that follow.

Applicant notes the Examiner assertion that the limitation "such that a user of said handy terminal can select a taxi…" was given little patentable weight because it was allegedly an intended result of using the structure available in Morimoto to perform the recited steps. Applicants respectfully disagree. However, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants amended independent claim 1 to recite a system for hiring a taxi, "wherein said handy terminal displays a plurality of said taxi data therein, and wherein a user of said handy terminal can select a taxi among displayed taxis, based on said plurality of said taxi data." A similar limitation appears in independent claims 15, 25 and 34.

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9, 12-16, 18, 19, 21-26, 28, 29, 33-35, 37, 38 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ayed in view of Lee.

Ayed is directed towards a system for automatically dispatching taxis to clients. There is no teaching or suggestion in Ayed that the client chooses which taxi to hire, let alone

disclosure pertaining to a user hiring a taxi from a list of displayed taxis based on data pertaining to each of the taxis that is displayed on the handy terminal. Rather, Ayed teaches that the server utilizes a predetermined method to look for a match between the client location and the available taxis, in order to allocate a taxi to the client. (column 5, lines 10-35)

Ayed teaches that the server decides which taxi is to be utilized by the client in response to the client request. Thus, Ayed fails to teach all of the features of the independent claims, specifically failing to teach "wherein said handy terminal displays a plurality of said taxi data therein, and wherein a user of said handy terminal can select a taxi among displayed taxis, based on said plurality of said taxi data."

Lee does not make up for the deficiencies of Ayed as shown above. Lee teaches that the central control office selects a taxi and sends its information to the user to accept or decline. (paragraph 0025) If the user accepts the taxi, the taxi is sent to the user. If the user declines the chosen taxi, then the central control office selects another taxi and sends the other taxi's information to the user for approval. (paragraphs 0033-0035). There is no teaching or suggestion in Lee that the user is able to choose a taxi among displayed taxis, based upon the data relating to each of the taxis. Rather, the user is only able to accept a taxi that has been chosen for him. Thus, Lee also fails to teach all of the features of the independent claims, specifically failing to teach "wherein said handy terminal displays a plurality of said taxi data therein, and wherein a user of said handy terminal can select a taxi among displayed taxis, based on said plurality of said taxi data."

Morimoto also fails to make up for the deficiencies of Ayed and Lee as shown above. Morimoto teaches that a taxi user inputs a car-allocation request, that can be customized, to a taxi company server via a website. The vehicle selection part of taxi company server selects a taxi that is to be allocated to the user. There is no teaching or suggestion in Morimoto that the client chooses which taxi to hire, let alone disclosure pertaining to a user hiring a taxi from a list of displayed taxis based on data pertaining to each of the taxis that is displayed on the handy terminal. The examiner asserts that Morimoto teaches sending a taxi driver request along with the choice of taxi company. However, this is not equivalent to selecting a taxi among displayed taxis, based upon the plurality of taxi data that is displayed. Rather, the user

is sending one or more preferences of drivers utilized by the company. There is no indicating in Morimoto that a taxi is chosen by the user. Rather, as shown above, the vehicle selection part of the taxi company server takes the user request into account and selects a taxi to be allocated to the user. Thus, Morimoto also fails to teach all of the features of the independent claims, specifically failing to teach "wherein said handy terminal displays a plurality of said taxi data therein, and wherein a user of said handy terminal can select a taxi among displayed taxis, based on said plurality of said taxi data." Thus, if this rejection is maintained, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where these features are disclosed in Ayed, Lee, Morimoto, or any combination thereof.

The dependent claims are also patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims on which they ultimately depend. In addition, they recite additional patentable features when considered as a whole. As mentioned above, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 8, 10, 11, 20, 22, 30-32 and 39-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ayed in view of Lee and Morimoto, and further in view of Takanashi. Takanashi fails to make up for the deficiencies of Ayed, Lee and Morimoto as shown above. Takanashi teaches that a provisional order is sent by the vehicle dispatching center to a taxi to dispatch it to a requester. The requester is then informed of the dispatch. (paragraphs 0046 and 0047). There is no teaching or suggestion in Takanashi that the client chooses which taxi to hire, let alone disclosure pertaining to a user hiring a taxi from a list of displayed taxis based on data pertaining to each of the taxis that is displayed on the handy terminal. Thus, Takanashi also fails to teach all of the features of the independent claims, specifically failing to teach "wherein said handy terminal displays a plurality of said taxi data therein, and wherein a user of said handy terminal can select a taxi among displayed taxis, based on said plurality of said taxi data." Thus, if this rejection is maintained, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where these features are disclosed in Ayed, Lee, Morimoto, Takanashi, or any combination thereof.

-13-

Further, new dependent claims 43-46 recite additional patentable features. For example, claim 43 recites a system, "wherein said handy terminal further comprises a plurality of keys that correspond respectively to said plurality of taxis, and wherein the user actuates a key to select said taxi." There is no teaching or suggestion, in either Ayed, Lee, Morimoto, or Takanashi of a user selecting a specific taxi, let alone a key included on the handy terminal that the user actuates to choose the taxi. Applicants note that it is well known in the art to utilize terminals that comprise keys that are actuated by user in selection. However, the plurality of keys on the handy terminal as claimed specifically correspond to a plurality of taxis, out of which the user can select a specific taxi by actuating the corresponding key on the handy terminal. This feature has not been taught in the prior art.

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.
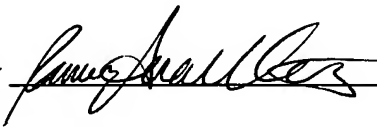
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date _____2/13/08_____   By _____

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